

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for compressing a message comprising:

identifying a first field and a second field within said message;

applying a first set of code words to encode data in said first field; and

applying a second set of code words to encode data in said second field.

2. The method as in claim 1 further comprising:

generating said first set of code words based on the frequency with which character strings represented by said code words are found within said first field; and

generating said second set of code words based on the frequency with which character strings represented by said code words are found within said second field.

3. The method as in claim 2 wherein character strings which are relatively more common within said first field are represented by relatively shorter code words in said first set of code words and character strings which are relatively more common within said second field are represented by relatively shorter code words in said second set of code words.

4. The method as in claim 1 wherein said first field is an email header field and said second field is an email text field.

5. The method as in claim 1 wherein said first field is an address book field and said second field is an email message field.

6. The method as in claim 1 further comprising:  
encoding ASCII text in said message in a 6-bit character format.

7. The method as in claim 6 further comprising:  
providing one or more 6-bit escape sequences indicating that code following said sequence represents data compressed using a particular compression technique.

8. The method as in claim 6 wherein relatively common characters are encoded using 6 bits and relatively uncommon characters are encoded using two successive sequences of 6 bits.

9. A method comprising:  
generating a first code word table containing code words for a plurality of character strings found in a first message field;  
generating a second code word table containing code words for a plurality of character strings found in a second message field; and  
encoding character strings in said first field using said first code word table and character strings in said second field using said second code word table.

10. The method as in claim 9 further comprising:

initially performing a statistical analysis of character strings found in said first message field and said second message field to determine a frequency of occurrence of each of said character strings.

11. The method as in claim 10 wherein character strings occurring relatively more frequently in said first field and said second field are associated with relatively shorter code words in said first code word table and said second code word table, respectively.

12. The method as in claim 9 wherein said first field is an email address field.

13. The method as in claim 12 wherein said second field is an address book address field.

14. The method as in claim 9 further comprising:

encoding said message further using one or more alternate compression techniques.

15. The method as in claim 14 wherein one of said alternate compression techniques comprises converting ASCII characters into a 6-bit character format.

16. The method as in claim 14 wherein one of said techniques comprises identifying strings in said first or second fields based on a location of said strings in a spell-check dictionary.

17. A method for compressing a message comprising:  
replacing character strings within said message with data identifying a location of said character strings within a spell check dictionary stored on a data processing device.

18. The method as in claim 17 wherein said message is an email message.

19. The method as in claim 17 further comprising:  
using one or more alternate compression techniques to further compress said message.

20. The method as in claim 19 wherein one of said alternate compression techniques is a Huffman coding technique.

21. The method as in claim 19 wherein one of said alternate compression techniques comprises converting ASCII text to a 6-bit character format.

22. A machine readable medium having program code stored thereon which, when executed by a machine, causes said machine to perform the operations of:

identifying a first field and a second field within said message;  
applying a first set of code words to encode data in said first field; and  
applying a second set of code words to encode data in said second field.

23. The method as in claim 22 comprising additional program code to cause said processor to perform the operations of:

generating said first set of code words based on the frequency with which character strings represented by said code words are found within said first field; and

generating said second set of code words based on the frequency with which character strings represented by said code words are found within said second field.

24. The machine-readable medium as in claim 23 wherein character strings which are relatively more common within said first field are represented by relatively shorter code words in said first set of code words and character strings which are relatively more common within said second field are represented by relatively shorter code words in said second set of code words.

25. The machine-readable medium as in claim 22 wherein said first field is an email header field and said second field is an email text field.

26. The machine-readable medium as in claim 22 wherein said first field is an address book field and said second field is an email message field.

27. The machine-readable medium as in claim 22 comprising additional program code to cause said processor to perform the operations of:  
encoding ASCII text in said message in a 6-bit character format.

28. The machine-readable medium as in claim 27 comprising additional program code to cause said processor to perform the operations of:

providing one or more 6-bit escape sequences indicating that code following said sequence represents data compressed using a particular compression technique.

29. The machine-readable medium as in claim 27 wherein relatively common characters are encoded using 6 bits and relatively uncommon characters are encoded using two successive sequences of 6 bits.